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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS
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Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian SSR)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 18. Centre for Science and Technology for Development

1. At its 35th meeting, on 3 June, the Committee considered section 18 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Several delegations noted the importance to the developing countries of the Organization's work in the field of science and technology and expressed concern at the reduction in the overall level of resources under section 18, particularly those for consultants and ad hoc expert groups, and the possible impact on the implementation of the proposed work programme.

3. There was general agreement on the priority accorded to subprogramme 1. Endogenous capacity-building, although some delegations felt that the other subprogrammes could have also been given priority. As regards the format and presentation of section 18, several delegations commented that it would have

been useful to show the cost of executive direction and management and programme support separately and that the section could have benefited from more precise details on the programmed activities.

4. Some delegations raised the question of overlapping and duplication of work within the system in the area of science and technology and referred particularly to the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It was noted that the ongoing review of the economic and social sectors included the Centre for Science and Technology for Development.

Conclusion and recommendation

5. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 18 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.



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III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 19. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

1. At its 32nd meeting, on 1 June, the Committee considered section 19 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Some delegations felt that the Global Strategy to the year 2000 was insufficiently reflected in the programme of work. Some delegations were of the view that the introductory narratives to subprogrammes 4 and 5 were inadequate.

3. A number of delegations questioned the legislative basis for activities relating to women and sustainable development. It was further pointed out that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs was the unit responsible for the programme on the Advancement of Women.

4. Some delegations welcomed the clarity with which the activities were presented, especially their relationship with consultancy funds.

5. Several delegations sought information on the training activities included in the programme, and were specifically concerned with the types of participants involved, the method of their selection, the follow-up of training results and the means of coordinating the activities. Some delegations emphasized the importance of group training and the benefits derived from it, and commended the Centre for Human Settlements for its efforts in this field.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended that the low priority designation under paragraph 19.18.1 (a) should be deleted.

7. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 19 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.



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III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 20. United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

1. At its 35th and 36th meetings, on 3 and 4 June, the Committee considered section 20 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations commended the Centre on Transnational Corporations for its work and expressed support for the activities programmed in section 20 for the biennium 1992-1993.

3. Some delegations questioned the high priority assigned to subprogramme 1. It was suggested that subprogramme 3 should be accorded high priority. Other delegations supported the priority designation under the section as proposed.

4. Several delegations expressed concern at the possible duplication of activities of the Centre in the area of environment with those programmed in the context of the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and suggested that this issue should be closely monitored and coordinated. One delegation expressed the view that the activities relating to environment could be better handled by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

5. One delegation indicated that the title of subprogramme 2 did not adequately reflect the state of events and current development trends in the activities of transnational corporations. It also had difficulty with the concept contained in the terminology "liability of parent companies for subsidiaries" relating to publications programmed under subprogramme 2.

6. Several delegations supported the level of resources assigned to the programme and its distribution among subprogrammes. Different views were expressed with regard to the proposed reclassifications of posts. Some delegations questioned the rationale for the proposals and indicated that they were not justified in terms of the volume and nature of the work involved, while other delegations supported the reclassifications as proposed.

Conclusion and recommendation

7. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 20 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.



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III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 21. Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs

1. At its 36th and 37th meetings, on 4 June, the Committee considered section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Several delegations stressed the importance of the social aspects of development and expressed their support for the activities proposed under section 21. Several delegations were of the view that the growing recognition of social development issues was not adequately reflected in terms of the resources allocated to the section. The view was expressed that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs should be strengthened in the context of the review of the functioning and administrative support of the departments having mandates related to global social development issues under the relevant General Assembly resolutions. Doubts were expressed about the adequacy of the resources proposed for the implementation of the activities related to the Year of the Family and the preparation of the World Conference

on Women, taking into account, in particular, the small size of the Division for the Advancement of Women at Vienna.

3. Several delegations supported the distribution of the resources among programmes and subprogrammes. Other delegations commented on the relatively small proportion of extrabudgetary resources for financing activities under the section and suggested that efforts should be undertaken by the Secretariat to increase them.

4. Some delegations said that activities relating to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination against Women, under subprogramme 1 of programme C, should be assigned a high priority. Questions were raised about the low priority designation for specific ad hoc group activities and publications programmed under subprogramme 1 of programme B and subprogrammes 1 and 3 of programme C.

5. Some delegations questioned the adequacy of the consultancy work (para. 21.23) which included the policy issue, selection of targets for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons in 1992.

6. One delegation suggested that the Commission on the Status of Women should be biennialized, while other delegations supported the current arrangements. The view was expressed that section 21 was still the proper section where activities and related resources for the preparation of the report on the World Social Situation should be programmed.

7. Different views were expressed on the proposed conversion of posts from temporary to established under programme C.

8. Several delegations expressed their support for Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/16 of 30 May 1991, whereby the Council requested the Secretary-General to add specific recommendations, within the overall level of the budget of the Organization, to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 to strengthen and rationalize the resources of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in order to enable it better to fulfil its mandates and carry out its activities in the social and related fields and for the advancement of women. Other delegations considered that this resolution would be taken into account in the preparation of the programme budget through the relevant statements of programme budget implications.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee took note of the statement and assurances made by the Secretariat that the report requested in General Assembly decision 45/428 would be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

10. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.



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III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 22. International Drug Control

1. At its 38th meeting, on 4 June, the Committee considered section 22 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Members of the Committee in their comments supported the programme of work of the new United Nations International Drug Control Programme and looked forward to the completion of the ongoing review process and the establishment of a fully integrated structure. A number of delegations expressed their satisfaction with the clarity of presentation of this section.

3. One delegation commented on subprogrammes 2 and 6 specifically as regards the legitimate uses of opiates and the need to establish a global information system on world-wide trends and consequences of illicit traffic, with special attention to transit States.

4. Another delegation noted that a large number of publications were being planned and pointed out that there should be no overlap or duplication with the work of other entities. In addition, that delegation felt that, with the new consolidated structure, the requirements for ad hoc expert groups would be lessened.

Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 22 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.



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III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 23. Economic Commission for Africa

1. At its 40th, 41st and 42nd meetings on 5 and 6 June, the Committee considered section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Several delegations expressed their support for the range of activities proposed under section 23 and for the related resources. Other delegations felt that there was excessive fragmentation of the programmes and efforts should be made to consolidate a number of activities. The view was also expressed that a number of the activities, in particular those proposed under subprogrammes 5 and 11, fell within the purview of other organizations of the United Nations system and that a degree of duplication and overlapping therefore existed.

3. The Committee noted the priority designation among activities as proposed under the section. One delegation expressed the view that subprogramme 5 should reflect, in terms of specific output, the outcome of the 1990 Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Paris and that subprogramme 9 should include the objectives of the Bamako Convention of the African States.

4. Several delegations emphasized the important role of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) in promoting subregional cooperation and integration in Africa and supported the activities proposed for the MULPOCs under subprogramme 2. Other delegations were of the view that the role of the MULPOCs was marginal and that the activities programmed for them would have limited effect. Some delegations drew attention to the fact that the proposed increase of resources for the MULPOCs was at variance with the intentions expressed by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

5. Some delegations supported the activities of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) and its role in training national personnel of African States. They accepted the proposed arrangements in providing IDEP with financial resources to ensure its stable functioning in the biennium 1992-1993. Two delegations were of the view that the United Nations regular budget should assume responsibility for funding IDEP on a permanent basis. Other delegations felt that the activities of IDEP, being of an operational nature, should be financed from alternative sources, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

6. Several delegations were concerned that many activities were heavily dependent on extrabudgetary resources. A few delegations expressed concern on the anticipated decline of financial support from UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and suggested that the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) should try to remedy the situation.

7. One delegation said that the late issuance of the proposed programme budget document for section 23 prevented its detailed review.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee emphasized the role of the MULPOCs in providing technical support to subregional economic groupings. It felt that the work programme of the MULPOCs would increase as a result of the signing of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community. The Committee stressed the need to strengthen the functioning of the MULPOCs so as to enable them to carry out effectively their mandates.

9. The Committee stressed the importance of evaluation as an effective tool for monitoring the programme performance and effectiveness of ECA. It recommended that the Secretary-General should submit proposals to strengthen this function within ECA to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

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10. The Committee noted the proposals to redeploy resources away from social sectors within the ECA programme. It recommended that appropriate measures should be taken to ensure that there was no adverse impact in the programme delivery in this sector.

11. The Committee also recommended that adequate resources should be provided for the economic recovery and development of Africa commensurate with the high priority accorded to it by the General Assembly.

12. The Committee stressed the need to ensure the predictability, adequacy and timeliness of extrabudgetary resources available to the ECA programme.

13. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.



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Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 24. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

1. At its 40th meeting on 5 June, the Commission considered section 24 of the proposed programmed budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the role that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) had played in the economic and social development of the region. While recognizing that the General Assembly had not recommended any criteria for determining the level of resources to be allocated to each regional commission, or indeed among programmes, some delegations expressed concern about what they considered to be the relatively low level of resources proposed for ESCAP.

3. One delegation stated that the low level of resources for ESCAP was not acceptable, considering that the activities undertaken by ESCAP covered a region which included more than half the world's population.
4. One delegation questioned the effectiveness of the many high priority designations. The Committee noted, however, that at its forty-seventh session ESCAP had approved the priority designations at the subprogramme level and that the designation of priorities at the output level was tentative at this stage. The Committee further noted that ESCAP's proposals would be reviewed by the Commission at its forty-eighth session in 1992.
5. The Committee expressed appreciation for the efforts made to redeploy resources from executive management and support services to the substantive programmes and noted that resources had been redeployed among some subprogrammes in order to achieve the objectives of the medium-term plan. At the same time, the Committee expressed concern that a major portion of the increased resources was for programme support, but noted that it was for the replacement of the central computer system which would ultimately facilitate the work of the substantive programmes.
6. The Committee also noted that some of the increased resources proposed were for the new conference complex which was to become operational during 1992-1993.
7. A number of delegations questioned the usefulness and effectiveness of the large number of publications proposed.
8. A number of delegations expressed concern at the projected decrease in extrabudgetary resources.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee expressed support for the work of ESCAP carried out under section 24 of the proposed programme budget.
10. The Committee recommended that ESCAP should continue its efforts to evaluate its publications.
11. The Committee also recommended that ESCAP should review its priority designations at the output level and urged that resources allocated for subprogrammes should be commensurate with their priority designations.
12. Noting the reservations expressed by some delegations on the overall level of resources, the Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.



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III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 25. Economic Commission for Europe

1. At its 39th meeting on 5 June, the Committee considered section 25 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Several delegations underlined the important role of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in Europe in light of the current economic and social changes in the region and supported the activities of ECE as programmed under section 25. Some delegations commended the efforts undertaken by ECE in restructuring its activities in order to meet new challenges. Other delegations felt that the proposed programme of work in terms of its scope and composition did not adequately reflect the decisions taken by the Commission in 1990 with regard to the transformation of ECE activities towards priority areas.

3. Some delegations emphasized that further efforts for restructuring of ECE activities should be undertaken through redeployment of resources from low priority areas of activities, thus obviating the need for additional resources. Other delegations expressed the need for additional resources.

4. Some delegations suggested that more attention should be given to interregional cooperation between ECE and the other regional commissions and with specialized agencies and United Nations programmes. Some delegations proposed that the environmental aspects of the Chernobyl nuclear plant incident should be reflected within the Environment subprogramme.

5. Some delegations indicated that references under several subprogrammes to cooperation between ECE and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance should be deleted from the section due to the recent dissolution of that intergovernmental body.

6. Several delegations expressed the view that the level of resources proposed for the section was not justified. Other delegations supported the level of resource proposed. Some delegations expressed reservations regarding the proposed increase of staff resources of the ECE secretariat, while other delegations supported the proposals.

7. Some delegations expressed their concern with regard to the absence of information on conference-servicing and other support costs provided to ECE by the United Nations Office at Geneva, indicating that this hampered comparison of the full ECE costs with those of other regional commissions and other secretariat units.

Conclusions and recommendation

8. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 25 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.



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III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 26. Economic Commission for Latin America and
the Caribbean

1. At its 39th meeting on 5 June, the Committee considered section 26 of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. There was general satisfaction with the proposed work programme under section 26 and the manner in which its activities were presented in a well-structured and well-planned manner, reflecting the interests and meeting the priorities of the region. At the same time some delegations were concerned at the reduction in the total resources due to the anticipated decrease in extrabudgetary resource estimates. It was felt that lack of growth in some subprogrammes did not reflect the importance of the activities to be carried out, especially in those related to industry, science and technology (subprogramme 4).

3. A number of delegations stressed the importance of coordination, in particular with the Centre for Science and Technology. Views were also expressed on activities involving women and development, economic integration and cooperation, tourism, and public information. The usefulness and high quality of the publications of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was recognized. One delegation felt that more information could have been provided under Programme support.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee recommended that:

(a) Activities relating to economic integration and cooperation should be specifically mentioned in the introductory paragraph 26.28 under subprogramme 5, International trade and development finance; and

(b) Activities relating to tourism should be undertaken under subprogramme 13, Subregional activities in the Caribbean.

5. With the above changes, the Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 26 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.



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III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 27. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

1. At its 40th meeting on 5 June, the Committee considered section 27 of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Delegations noted that the section did not contain a programme narrative and that the activities of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia had been suspended owing to the situation in the region.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee noted that the programme of work under section 27 would be prepared at a later stage.



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III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 28. Human rights

1. At its 22nd, 23rd and 25th meetings on 28 and 29 May, the Committee considered section 28 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations noted the recent increase in the workload mandated by the General Assembly and supported the programme of work of the Centre for Human Rights. Some delegations voiced approval of the 10.9 per cent rate of real growth proposed for section 28, while others pointed out that the need for additional staff should be met through redeployment from other areas of the Secretariat. Several delegations voiced disapproval at the significant rate of real growth proposed under this section, particularly since it was not included in the broad priority areas identified in General Assembly resolution 45/253. Other delegations did not share that view.

3. A number of delegations questioned the proposed redeployment of a D-1 post from Executive Direction and Management to the Advisory Services, Technical Assistance and Information Branch and the proposal to establish a new D-2 level post for a Director and Deputy to the Head of the Centre for Human Rights. Several delegations requested information concerning the changes and development in the Centre for Human Rights staffing table since 1974. In addition, some delegations felt that the Centre should have a better geographical distribution in its overall staffing table.

4. The lack of supporting information on workload statistics was noted by several delegations.

5. One delegation queried the activities of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus. The same delegation also queried the method of financing treaty bodies.

6. Some delegations noted with regret the absence of substantive activities related to racism and racial discrimination and apartheid.

Reservations

7. One delegation expressed its reservations on the following activities:

(a) The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories;

(b) The Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

Conclusion and recommendation

8. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 28 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.



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III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 29A. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees

1. At its 23rd meeting, on 28 May, the Committee considered section 29A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Some delegations expressed concern regarding the proposal to transfer, on a phased basis, the posts of chiefs of missions in 17 of the least developed countries where the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) operates from extrabudgetary financing to the regular budget, and questioned in particular the criteria used in selecting the grades and locations of these posts. Other delegations supported the proposal. Still others expressed the view that all the 17 posts should have been included in the regular budget of section 29A for the 1992-1993 biennium.

3. One delegation recalled that in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 for this section, "no further proposals to change UNHCR's staffing establishment funded from the regular budget would be submitted before 1999".

Conclusion and recommendation

4. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 29A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.



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III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 29B. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

1. At its 24th meeting, on 29 May, the Committee considered section 29B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations stressed the importance of the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). It was noted that such activities, while essential, were not a substitute for a solution to the question of Palestine.

3. The proposed transfer from extrabudgetary resources of three posts to the United Nations regular budget was questioned by some delegations, while others supported the proposal. Some delegations were concerned with the possible adverse impact of this transfer on the level of voluntary contributions to UNRWA.

4. A number of delegations noted with regret that no priority designation had been proposed among the activities on education, health, and relief and social services proposed in this subprogramme.

Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Committee noted with appreciation the proposed redeployment of five posts from Vienna to the field offices.

6. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 29B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.



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III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 30. Disaster relief operations

1. At its 24th and 25th meetings, on 29 May, the Committee considered section 30 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations emphasized the need for a further strengthening of the capacity of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) to fulfil its mandate. Several delegations pointed out that related functions pertaining to the role of the United Nations in addressing disaster and emergency situations appeared to be fragmented in their presentation in the proposed programme budget. In this context, references were made to section 30, section 6 (subprogramme 4, Special emergency programmes) and section 29A.

3. The proposed creation of an additional P-5 post was supported by some delegations and questioned by others. It was noted that this new post was proposed for subprogramme 3, which was not a high priority. Some delegations pointed out, however, that this subprogramme should be considered at the same level of priority as the two other subprogrammes. One delegation proposed that additional resources should be given to subprogrammes 1 and 3.

4. Several delegations expressed the view that the proposed staffing table for section 30 appeared to be "top-heavy".

5. Several delegations deplored the lack of information in this section on the implementation of resolution 44/236 on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. Several delegations suggested that UNDRO should host its secretariat.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee noted the importance of disaster relief operations.

7. The Committee also noted the proposed priorities among activities within the three subprogrammes.

8. The Committee recommended the inclusion in this section of a programme narrative relating to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in accordance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

9. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 30 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.



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10 June 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-first session
13 May-7 June 1991
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet
Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 31. Department of Public Information

1. At its 45th meeting, on 7 June, the Committee considered section 31 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. While some delegations stated that the proposed real growth of the Department was excessive, other delegations felt that the growth was commensurate with the important work of the Organization in the area of public information.

3. A few delegations regretted that the publications of the Department were not issued in Arabic.

4. Some delegations noted the absence of a reference to the Trust Fund for African Economic Recovery and Development under both section 31, Public Information, and section 11, Development and international economic cooperation.

5. While one delegation questioned the high priority designation for information activities on the Question of Palestine, several delegations supported this priority designation. One delegation expressed its reservation on the funding of information activities on the Question of Palestine.

6. A few delegations felt that the information activities on human rights could be expanded to include the question of economic rights. One delegation felt that the information activities on economic development should also be accorded high priority.

7. One delegation was of the view that United Nations Day concerts should include musical expressions of various regions in the world.

8. A few delegations expressed concern at the relatively small increase in resources for the United Nations Information Centres.

9. A few delegations queried the progress made in eliminating the backlog of the Yearbook.

10. While one delegation proposed the elimination of United Nations press releases, another recalled its importance for newspaper correspondents accredited to the United Nations.

11. A few delegations were of the view that no clear strategy emerged from the proposed programme budget of this section and felt that it reflected essentially a catalogue of proposed activities.

12. One delegation noted the relatively low proportion of resources proposed for programme support activities.

13. Some delegations felt that justifications for the proposed reclassification of the post of Director of the Communications and Project Management Division from D-1 to the D-2 level was inadequate.

Conclusions and recommendations

14. The Committee emphasized the importance of the Department's work in promoting the goals and the activities of the United Nations.

15. The Committee noted that the format of section 31, which differed from other sections of the budget, did not present a clear relationship between the proposed activities and the resources requested. The Committee further noted that it was difficult to determine the distribution of resources between Headquarters and the field offices. Accordingly, the Committee renewed its request for an improvement in future presentations of this section of the budget.

16. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 31 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.



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IV. COORDINATION QUESTIONS

Draft framework for the preparation of a system-wide plan
of action for African economic recovery and development

1. At its 46th meeting on 8 June, the Committee considered the draft framework for the preparation of a system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development (E/AC.51/1991/CRP.1).
2. Delegations welcomed the opportunity to comment on the draft outline in order to provide the Secretariat with further guidance on the preparation of the system-wide plan of action.
3. Some delegations noted the approach proposed by the Secretariat in paragraphs 16 and 19 to 26. They stressed that in following this approach, the Secretariat should use as a model the Plan of Action on Drug-abuse Control. They further emphasized that the objective of the plan of action should be to provide a basic framework for activities of the system, to be implemented on a phase-by-phase basis in support of the economic recovery and development of Africa. The plan should clearly indicate resource requirements and steps to ensure their availability to organizations of the system for its implementation.
